

# YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF: A FRAMEWORK FOR VERIFYING SQL CORRECTNESS PROPERTIES OF GUI SOFTWARE AT RUNTIME

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**Abstract.** Software correctness properties are essential to maintain quality by continuous and regressive integration testing, as well as runtime monitoring the program after customer deployment. This paper presents an effective and lightweight C++ program verification framework: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**, to check SQL (Structure Query Language) [30] software correctness properties specified as temporal safety properties [11]. A temporal safety property specifies what behavior shall not occur, in a software, as sequence of program events. **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** allows specification of a SQL temporal safety property by means of a very small state diagram [29]; such a state diagram, would only be specified by a start and an accepting state, and by a pre- and post-condition on the state diagram transition between them. In **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**, a specification characterizes effects of program events (via SQL statements) on database table columns by means of set interface operations ( $\in$ ,  $\notin$ ), and, enable to check these characteristics hold or not at runtime. Integration testing is achieved for instance by expressing a state diagram that encompasses both Graphical User Interface (GUI) states and MySQL [25] databases queries that glue them. For example, a simple specification would encompass states between 'Department administration' and 'Stock listing' GUI interfaces, and transitions between them by means of MySQL databases operations. **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** doesn't generate false warnings; **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** specifications are *not desirable (forbidden) specifications (fail traces)*. This paper focuses its examples on MySQL database specifications, labeled as states diagrams events, for the newly developed and FOSS (Free and Open Source Software) Enterprise Resource Planning Software YEROTH-ERP-3.0 [26].

**Keywords:** model-based testing · reactive system analysis · computer software program analysis · computer software dynamic program analysis · software integration testing with SQL and GUI · runtime monitoring

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Motivations

This paper describes an effective dynamic analysis framework, based on runtime monitors specified in C++ programs (implemented in the software library `yr_sd_runtime_verif`), to perform software temporal safety property checking of GUI (Graphical User Interface) based software.

GUI based software are very comfortable and handy to use. However, tools to perform temporal safety property verification of GUI software are almost not available as FOSS. The testing of combinations between GUI windows and database queries that glue them to make sense to the user, is almost unavailable as FOSS, or at all to the best of the knowledge of the author of this paper. The FOSS C++ library `libfsmtest` [5] provides test suite generation support for source code behavior specifications as mealy automata. However, `libfsmtest` only allows for *desirable* correctness properties, and doesn't provide GUI (interaction) support or as plugin-based.

Unit or integration testing for GUI widgets is available by use of "NUnit" testing frameworks like e.g. `Qt-Test` [1], `CppUnit` [20], etc.. Software testing across GUI widgets (and MySQL queries) is however limited in support by these "NUnit" framework. To the best of the knowledge of the author of this paper, `DejaVu` [4] provides some support for Java 'record and replay' testing while `FROGLAGIC` [14] provides support for C++ GUI software 'record and replay' testing technology. 'Record and replay' testing means a user performs a sequence of events that are recorded by testing infrastructure and automatically replay later on to see if expected events thereof occur. However, none of this 'record and replay' technology tool enable temporal safety property specification as FOSS, with SQL as plugin.

As we will see in the related work, section 7, of this paper, most of software correctness property checking frameworks don't put an emphasis on checking temporal safety property of GUI software. Characterizing the effects of program statements (via SQL statements) on database table columns, and to check that these characteristics hold or not, is of predominant importance for large software systems with an impressive number of database tables. `YEROTH-ERP-3.0` has for instance 60 user interfaces (windows, dialogs), 38 SQL tables, 320 SQL table columns, and about 300,000 source lines of code.

It means it can be very difficult for developers to keep application related logical requirements between the tables without appropriate software testing or analysis tools.

A large amount of former work on runtime monitoring assumes for a sequential program, or an abstraction of the program as one single source code, on which program analysis is performed [7,9,3,6,10].

The program analysis technique the author of this paper presents here abstract SQL events, GUI events, or sequences of them, as a state diagram, and enables developers to run them sequentially against a runtime monitor specified as a C++ program. In particular, the example presented in Section 2 specifies results of

GUI windows events as SQL database pre-conditions on state diagram transitions; SQL events are specified as state diagram transition events.

## 1.2 Main Contributions

This paper presents 3 original main contributions:

- an industrial level quality framework (**YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**: <https://github.com/yerothd/yr-db-runtime-verif>), that solves temporal property verification by dynamic program analysis. **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** makes use of the C++ Qt-DBus library, to input a *runtime monitor specification* (*yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif*) as C++ program code, that also enables software-library-plugin checks;
- a C++ library: *yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif* ([https://github.com/yerothd/yr\\_sd\\_runtime\\_verif](https://github.com/yerothd/yr_sd_runtime_verif)); modeling a state diagram runtime monitoring interface using only set algebra inclusion operations ( $\in$ ,  $\notin$ ) for state diagram program state specification as pre- and post-conditions.  
*yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif* only enables the specification of states diagrams specifications as *not desirable (forbidden) behavior specifications (fail traces)*. Thus, **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** doesn't generate any false warning. A violation of a safety rule has been found whenever a final state could be reached. On the other hand, not reaching a final state doesn't mean that there is not a test case (or test input) that cannot reach this final state.
- An application of **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** to check 1 temporal safety property error, found in the ERP FOSS YEROTH-ERP-3.0.

## 1.3 Overview

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a motivating example that will be used throughout this paper to explain the presented concepts of this paper. Section 3 presents formal definitions of the principal concepts used in this paper. Section 4 presents the software architecture of **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**, our GUI dynamic analysis framework. Section 5 introduces the C++ software library *yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif* to model states diagrams, and reused by **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. We evaluate our dynamic runtime analysis in Section 6. Section 7 compares this paper with other papers that achieve similar work or endeavors. Section 8 concludes this paper.

## 2 Motivating Example: missing department definition

Fig. 1: A motivating example, as current bug in YEROTH-ERP-3.0.

$Q0 := \text{NOT\_IN\_PRE}(\text{YR\_ASSET}, \text{department.department\_name}).$   
 $\overline{Q1} := \text{IN\_POST}(\text{YR\_ASSET}, \text{stocks.department\_name}).$



Fig. 2: YEROTH-ERP-3.0 administration section displaying departments ( $\neg Q0$ ).

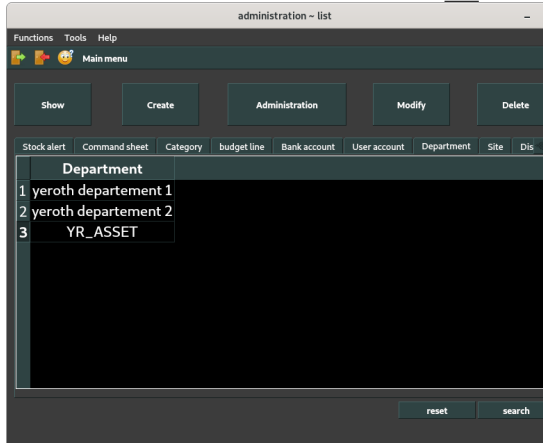
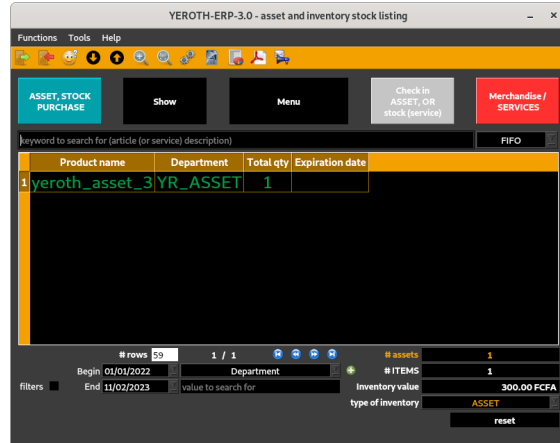


Fig. 3: YEROTH-ERP-3.0 stock asset window listing some assets ( $\overline{Q1}$ ).



### 2.1 The Enterprise Resource Planing Software YEROTH-ERP-3.0

YEROTH-ERP-3.0 is a fast, yet very simple in terms of usage, installation, and configuration Enterprise Resource Planing Software developed by Noundou et al. [26] for very small, small, medium, and large enterprises. YEROTH-ERP-3.0

Fig. 4: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** command line shell output demonstrating that a final state has been reached (Section 6 analyzes these results).

```

8 yr-db-runtime-verif | YerothERPDatabase::YerothERPDatabase | database type: QMYSQL
9
10 "could register '//YR_DB_RUNTIME_VERIF.Main' object"
11 "could register 'yr.db-runtime.verif' service"
12 STARTING YR-DB-RUNTIME-VERIF !
13      "[C++ STMT (SELECT.departements.produits)[24,1] at src/yeroth-erp-windows.cpp:967]"
14 ***** START *****
15 *YR CPP MONITOR EDGE::print FOR YEROTH ERP specification edge event: "select.departements.produits" **
16 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] edge event evaluated triggered guarded condition: true **
17 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] edge event start state: "D" **
18 "execQuery: select * from departements.produits WHERE nom.departement.produit = 'YR_ASSET';"
19 *[YR CPP MONITOR::CHECK_PRE_CONDITION notIN:] precondition IS TRUE: FALSE **
20 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] START STATE precondition IS TRUE: False **
21      "[C++ STMT (DELETE.departements.produits.YR_ASSET)[48,1] at src/admin/lister/yeroth-erp-admin-lis
22 ter-window.cpp:1603]"
23      "[C++ STMT (DELETE.marchandises.YR_ASSET)[48,1] at src/admin/lister/yeroth-erp-admin-lister-windo
24 w.cpp:1659]"
25      "[C++ STMT (SELECT.departements.produits)[24,1] at src/yeroth-erp-windows.cpp:967]"
26 ***** START *****
27 *YR CPP MONITOR EDGE::print FOR YEROTH ERP specification edge event: "select.departements.produits" **
28 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] edge event evaluated triggered guarded condition: true **
29 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] edge event start state: "D" **
30 "execQuery: select * from departements.produits WHERE nom.departement.produit = 'YR_ASSET';"
31 *[YR CPP MONITOR::CHECK_PRE_CONDITION notIN:] precondition IS TRUE: True **
32 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] START STATE precondition IS TRUE: True **
33 "execQuery: select * from stocks WHERE nom.departement.produit = 'YR_ASSET';"
34 *[YR CPP MONITOR::CHECK_post_condition IN:] postcondition IS TRUE: True **
35 *[YR CPP MONITOR::YR_trigger an edge event:] edge event accepting final state: "E" **
36 ***** END *****
37 /** YR_DB_RUNTIME_VERIF_Monitor::YR_DB_RUNTIME_VERIF_Monitor.notify_SUCCESS_VERIFICATION **/

```

is developed using C++ by means of the Qt development library. YEROTH-ERP-3.0 is a large software with around 300 000 (three hundred thousands) of physical source lines of code. **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** could be used for integration testing of YEROTH-ERP-3.0, among different software modules.

## 2.2 Example Temporal Safety Property

The motivating example of this paper consists of the temporal safety property stipulating that **"A DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT BE DELETED WHENEVER STOCKS ASSET STILL EXISTS UNDER THIS DEPARTMENT"**. This statement means that a user shall be denied the removal of department 'YR\_ASSET' in Figure 2 because there are still a stock asset listed within department 'YR\_ASSET', as illustrated in Figure 3. Figure 1 illustrates the above temporal safety property as a simple state diagram.

**State Diagram Explanation** 'D' is a *start* state as illustrated by an arrow ending on its state shape. 'E' is a *final* (error, or accepting) state as illustrated by a double circle as state shape.

The pre-condition  $Q_0$  (as a predicate) in state 'D':

'NOT\_IN\_PRE(YR\_ASSET, department.department\_name)' means:

- *a department named 'YR\_ASSET' is not in column 'department\_name' of database table 'department'*. This might happen whenever button 'Delete' in Figure 2 is pressed when item 'YR\_ASSET' is selected.

Similarly, the post-condition  $\overline{Q1}$  (as a predicate) '**IN\_POST(YR\_ASSET, stocks.department\_name)**', in accepting state 'E', means:

- *a department named 'YR\_ASSET' is in column 'department\_name' of database table 'stocks'.*

The **state diagram event transition** in Figure 1: 'select.department' denotes that when in 'D', a SQL 'select' on database table 'department' has occurred; 'E' is then reached as an *accepting state*. The source code specified in Listing 1.3 also illustrates a specification in C++ using software library `yr_sd_runtime_verif` of the state diagram specification above.

### 2.3 YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF Analysis Report

The motivating example automaton in Figure 1 is analyzed by **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** as follows:

- Whenever department 'YR\_ASSET' is deleted in YEROTH-ERP-3.0, as done in Figure 2, the runtime monitor state 'D' with a state condition  $\underline{Q0}$  is entered
- when MySQL library (plugin) event 'select.department' occurs, in Figure 2 because of YEROTH-ERP-3.0 displaying the remaining product departments, the guarded condition for edge event 'select.department' is automatically evaluated to 'True' by C++ library `yr_sd_runtime_verif`, because no other guarded condition was specified by the developer
- `yr_sd_runtime_verif` enters the runtime monitor state to 'E' and state condition  $\overline{Q1}$  via method `YR_trigger_an_edge_event(QString an_edge_event)` because there are still assets (`yeroth_asset_3`) left within product department 'YR\_ASSET', as illustrated in Figure 3. 'E' is then an accepting (or final or error) state.

Figure 4 illustrates an analysis result of the afore described process, which gets evaluated and described in Evaluation Section 6.

### 2.4 Runtime Analysis Interpretation Of yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif Models By YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF

The framework **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** assumes the following characteristics of a specification automaton in order to enable proper software integration testing:

- the state diagram automaton only has 2 states: a start and a final state;
- at most 1 state diagram transition pre-condition on the start state
- exactly 1 post-condition on the final state, *that must hold*, when the state diagram automaton reaches this final state
- exactly one state diagram transition between the start and the final state
- no edge guard condition

*Future releases of yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif will extend 2-states states diagrams mealy machines in order to have states diagrams with more than only 2 states.*

### 3 Formal Definitions

`yr_sd_runtime_verif`'s formal description of the state diagram formalism follows *Mealy machine* [29] added with *accepting states (final or erroneous state)*, and *state diagram transition pre- and post-conditions*. Another excellent, detailed with proofs and theory presentation of mealy automata [27] is available. In comparison to statechart [16], which is a *visual formalism* for states diagrams, `yr_sd_runtime_verif` doesn't support for instance the following features: *hierarchical states (composite state, submachine state)*, *timing conditions*.

**Definition 1.** A state diagram is a 8-tuple  $(S, S_0, C, \Sigma, \Lambda, \delta, T, \Gamma)$  where:

- **S**: a finite set of states
- **S<sub>0</sub>**  $\in S$ : a start state (or initial state)
- **C**: a set of predicate conditions; pre-conditions are underlined (e.g.:  $\underline{Q0}$ ), and post-conditions are overlined (e.g.:  $\overline{Q1}$ ). A pre-condition is comparable to a Harel-statechart *guard condition*.
- **$\Sigma$** : an input alphabet,  $\Sigma := \{False, True\}$ .  
'False' means no input from SUT into **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**.  
'True' means any input could come from SUT.
- **$\Lambda$** : an output alphabet (of program events  $e_n (n \in \mathbb{N})$ ),  $\phi$  the no program event. A program event generally corresponds to a function or method call at a SUT source code statement (or program point).
- **$\delta$**  :  $S \times C$ : a 2-ary relation that maps a state  $s$  to a state-condition  $c$  as either a state diagram transition pre-condition ( $\underline{c}$ ), or as a state diagram transition post-condition ( $\overline{c}$ ).
- **$T$**  :  $S \times \Sigma \rightarrow S \times \Lambda$ : a transition function that maps an input symbol to an output symbol and the next state.
- **$\Gamma$** : a set of accepting states;  $\Gamma \in S$ .

For instance, for the motivating example described in Figure 1 we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S} &= \{D, E\}; \mathbf{S}_0 = D; \mathbf{C} = \{\underline{Q0}, \overline{Q1}\}; \mathbf{\Sigma} = \{False, True\}; \\ \mathbf{\Lambda} &= \{\phi, \text{'select.department'}\}; \mathbf{\delta} = \{(D, \underline{Q0}), (E, \overline{Q1})\}; \mathbf{T} = \\ &= \{((D, False), (D, \phi)), ((D, True), (E, \text{'select.department'}))\}; \mathbf{\Gamma} = \{E\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 2.** A pre-condition of a state diagram transition is a predicate that must be true before the transition can be triggered. A pre-condition  $\underline{Q0}$  could have 2 forms:

- $\underline{Q0} := \text{IN\_PRE}(X, Y)$  that means value "X" is in ( $\in$ ) database column value set "Y".
- $\underline{Q0} := \text{NOT\_IN\_PRE}(X, Y)$  that means value "X" is not in ( $\notin$ ) database column value set "Y".

**Definition 3.** A post-condition of a state diagram transition is a predicate that must be true after the transition was triggered. A post-condition  $\overline{Q1}$  could have 2 forms:

- $\overline{Q1} := \text{IN\_POST}(A, B)$  that means value "A" is in ( $\in$ ) database column value set "B".
- $\overline{Q1} := \text{NOT\_IN\_POST}(A, B)$  that means value "A" is not in ( $\notin$ ) database column value set "B".

**Definition 4.** A trace  $T_n = \langle e^0, e^1, \dots, e^n \rangle$  is a sequence of SUT events (or SUT program points)  $e^i (i \in \{0, \dots, n\})$  of length  $n$ .  $\text{trace}(D)$  is the trace of SUT events up to state D. For instance, for the motivating example described in Figure 1 we have:  $\text{trace}(D) = \langle \rangle$ ,  $\text{trace}(E) = \langle \text{'select.department'} \rangle$ .

**Proposition 1: NO FALSE WARNINGS.** `yr_sd_runtime_verif` only allows 1 outgoing edge or transition for a state in its specifications, and for *not desirable (forbidden) behavior*, as illustrated in Figure 1. There is no need to specify the red colored edge in Figure 1 because it represents runtime cases where no input events arrive from SUT into **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. These 2 properties, together with algorithm '`YR_trigger_an_edge_event(QString an_edge_event)`' (Listing 1.1) of `yr_sd_runtime_verif`, ensures that there are no false warnings during **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** analyses. For example, the runtime monitoring or verification systems [7,9,3,6,10] may give false warnings.

Listing 1.1: C++ Pseudo-code for `YR_trigger_an_edge_event(QString an_edge_event)`: `yr_sd_runtime_verif` method for triggering state diagram events (edges or transitions).

```

1  bool MONITOR::YR_trigger_an_edge_event(QString an_edge_event)
2  {
3      MONITOR_EDGE cur_OUTGOING_EDGE = _cur_STATE.outgoing_edge();
4
5      if (cur_OUTGOING_EDGE.evaluate_GUARDED_CONDITION_expression() &&
6          (an_edge_event == cur_OUTGOING_EDGE.edge_event_token()))
7      {
8          bool precondition_IS_TRUE = cur_OUTGOING_EDGE
9              .CHECK_SOURCE_STATE_PRE_CONDITION(_cur_STATE);
10
11         if (precondition_IS_TRUE)
12         {
13             set_current_triggered_EDGE(cur_OUTGOING_EDGE);
14
15             MONITOR_STATE a_potential_accepting_state =
16                 cur_OUTGOING_EDGE.get_TARGET_STATE();
17
18             if (CHECK_whether__STATE__is__Final(a_potential_accepting_state))
19             {
20                 CALL_BACK_final_state_FUNCTION(a_potential_accepting_state);
21             }
22             return true;
23         }
24     }
25     return false;
26 }
```



## 4 The Software Architecture of YR-DB-RUNTIME-VERIF

Fig. 5: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**: simplified software system architecture.

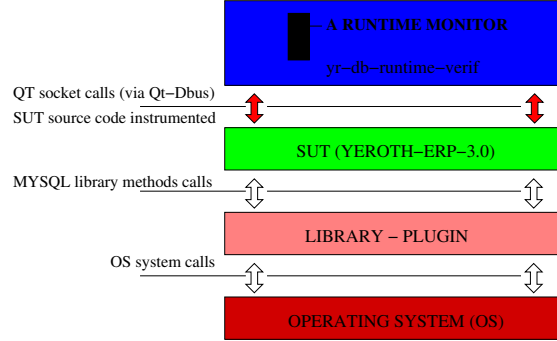
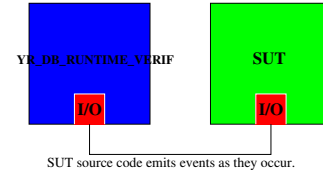


Fig. 6: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** and SUT socket communication (diagram inspired from Jan Peleska diagram-work).



### 4.1 Dynamic Analysis

**SUT Source Code Instrumentation.** **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** runs as a separate Debian Linux process from the application to dynamically analyze (YEROTH-ERP-3.0 in this case). Figure 5 illustrates a software system architecture layer of a software system that uses **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. Figure 5 and Figure 6 illustrate how YEROTH-ERP-3.0 is instrumented to send MySQL database events, as they occur on due to the GUI of YEROTH-ERP-3.0, to process **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**, so it can perform runtime analysis of the monitor implemented within it.

**Debugging Information.** Each GUI manipulation of YEROTH-ERP-3.0 in its instrumented source code part could generate a state transition within the analyzed runtime monitor state diagram in **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. Visualize "line 35" of Figure 4 to observe that a specific analysis message is sent to the console of **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** in cases where a final state has been reached; the message at "line 33" is for an accepting (final) state of the state diagram specification of the motivating example presented in Figure 1.

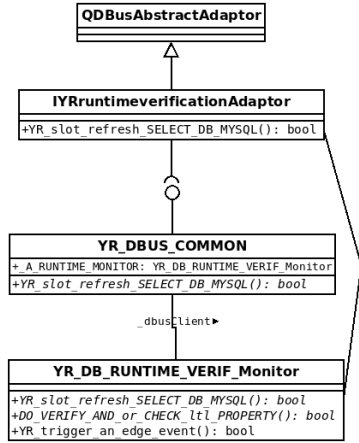
**SQL Event Dbus Method Interface.** **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** currently only handles 4 SQL events: DELETE, INSERT, UPDATE, SELECT.

### 4.2 A Runtime Monitor (An Analysis Client)

Listing 1.2: "XML file adaptor for YEROTH-ERP-3.0 test cases (reduced from 4 to only 1 SQL event for paper)."

```
<!DOCTYPE node PUBLIC "-//freedesktop//DTD D-BUS Object Introspection 1.0//EN"
"http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/dbus/1.0/introspect.dtd">
<node name="/YRruntimeverification">
  <interface name="com.yerOTH.rd.IYRruntimeverification">
    <method name="YR_slot_refresh_SELECT_DB_MYSQL">
      <annotation name="org.qtproject.QtDBus.QtTypeName.In0" value="QString"/>
      <annotation name="org.qtproject.QtDBus.QtTypeName.In1" value="uint"/>
      <annotation name="org.qtproject.QtDBus.QtTypeName.In2" value="bool"/>
      <arg type="QString" direction="in"/>
      <arg type="uint" direction="in"/>
      <arg type="bool" direction="out"/>
    </method>
  </interface>
</node>
```

Fig. 7: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**: simplified class diagram in UML [8].



An user (an analysis client) of **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** needs to subclass class **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF\_Monitor**. The UML class diagram in Figure 7 displays the class structure of **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. Qt-DBus communication adaptor **IYRruntimeverificationAdaptor** shall be generated by the user of this library (on **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** side) using Qt-DBus command **qdbusxml2cpp** and an XML file, similar to the one displayed in Listing 1.2:

An analysis client must first override method **'DO\_VERIFY\_AND\_or\_CHECK\_ltl\_PROPERTY'** of class **'YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF\_Monitor'** so to implement a checking algorithm for each event received from SUT, as for instance the events illustrated in Figure 1 of the motivating example. The analysis client then calls method **'YR\_trigger\_an\_edge\_event(QString an\_edge\_event)'** (Listing 1.1) of class **'YR\_CPP\_RUNTIME\_MONITOR'** of C++ library **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif** for each corresponding state diagram transition event.

## 5 yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif: A C++ Library to Model States Diagrams

Fig. 8: Class diagram in UML [8] to model a State Transition Diagram.

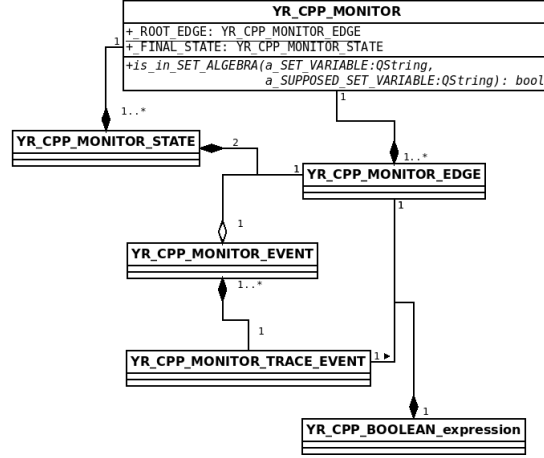
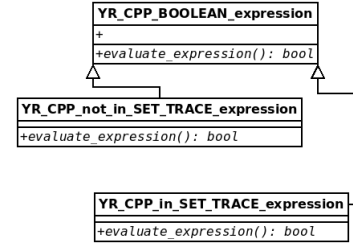


Fig. 9: Class diagram in UML [8] to model state diagram transition trace conditions in yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif code.



### 5.1 Structure Of yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif

yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif is a state diagram C++ library the author of this paper created to work with the dynamic analysis program **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. Figure 8 and Figure 9 represent the class structure, in UML, of yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif. Listing 1.3 shows the C++ code that models the motivating example in Figure 1, and that uses runtime monitoring C++ state diagram library yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif.

*There is no need to write C++ code for the red specified edge of Figure 1; this represents runtime cases where no input event arrives from SUT into YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF.*

### 5.2 Methods for Pre- and Post-Condition Specifications

Table 1: yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif Methods for Pre-/Post-Condition Specification

Class YR_CPP_MONITOR_EDGE Methods	Utility
set_PRE_CONDITION_notIN(QString, QString)	sets a NOT IN DATABASE pre-condition
set_PRE_CONDITION_IN(QString, QString)	sets an IN DATABASE pre-condition
set_POST_CONDITION_notIN(QString, QString)	sets a NOT IN DATABASE post-condition
set_POST_CONDITION_IN(QString, QString)	sets an IN DATABASE pre-condition

Listing 1.3: `yr_sd_runtime_verif` C++ code modeling a current bug in YEROTH-ERP-3.0 (Figure 1).

```

1 YR_CPP_MONITOR_EDGE *a_last_edge_0 = create_yr_monitor_edge("D",
2                                     "E",
3                                     "select.departements_produits");
4
5 a_last_edge_0->get_SOURCE_STATE()->set_START_STATE(true);
6
7 a_last_edge_0->get_TARGET_STATE()->set_FINAL_STATE(true);
8
9 a_last_edge_0->set_PRE_CONDITION_notIN("YR_ASSET",
10                                     "departements_produits.
11                                     nom_departement_produit");
12
13 a_last_edge_0->set_POST_CONDITION_IN("YR_ASSET",
14                                     "stocks.nom_departement_produit");
15
16 YR_register_set_final_state_CALLBACK_FUNCTION(&
17 YR_CALL_BACK_final_state);

```

Table 1 illustrates methods for specifying pre- and post-conditions of a runtime monitor state diagram transition. Each method takes in 2 arguments of string ('QString') type: 'DB\_VARIABLE', 'db\_TABLE\_\_db\_COLUMN'.

The first method argument: 'DB\_VARIABLE', specifies which variable is to be expected as value for the specification of the second variable argument 'db\_TABLE\_\_db\_COLUMN'. The second variable gives in a string to be specified in format "DB\_table\_name.DB\_table\_column"; and its supposed value is the returned value of the first variable argument 'DB\_VARIABLE'.

These 4 pre- and post-conditions methods make assumptions that a **program variable value** 'DB\_VARIABLE' is in set "DB\_table\_name.DB\_table\_column" or not; if the value of 'DB\_VARIABLE' is in the database table column, it means it is **in the set** ( $\in$ ) of values "DB\_table\_name.DB\_table\_column"; and not being in the table column means it is **not in the set** ( $\notin$ ).

**Example from the motivating example in Section 2** Listing 1.3 of the runtime monitoring specification stipulates for instance in its "line 12", as post-condition:

```

a_last_edge_0->set_POST_CONDITION_IN("YR_ASSET",
                                     "stocks.nom_departement_produit");

```

that 'YR\_ASSET' shall be a value in the value set ( $\in$ ) of SQL table 'stocks' column 'nom\_departement\_produit'.

## 6 Evaluation

The main experimental results in this paper demonstrate the efficacy of our tool to find errors in the SUT (YEROTH-ERP-3.0), presented in Subsection 2.2.

Table 2: SUT (YEROTH-ERP-3.0) Trace Output (Figure 4).

CONSOLE OUTPUT LINE	SQL EVENT	SUT PROGRAM POINT (TRACE)
21	"DELETE.department.YR_ASSET"	"src/admin/lister/yeroth-erp-admin-lister-window.cpp:1603"
22	"DELETE.merchandise.YR_ASSET"	"src/admin/lister/yeroth-erp-admin-lister-window.cpp:1626"
23	"SELECT.department"	"src/yeroth-erp-windows.cpp:967"

### Qualitative Results.

*SUT (YEROTH-ERP-3.0) TRACING.* Table 2 illustrates SUT source code trace information as presented in **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** console output in Figure 4. We have translated from French to English the MariaDB SQL table names.

*SQL EVENT CALL SEQUENCE.* A careful observation of the output in Figure 4 illustrates the following sequence:

- **line 23:** at state  $D$ , execution of the state diagram event "'select.department'" (SUT button 'Delete' has been pressed at **line 21**) :

```
select * from departements_produits WHERE nom_departement_produit = 'YR_ASSET';
```

- **line 28, line 29:** evaluation of the pre-condition  $\overline{Q0}$  of state  $D$  stating that product department 'YR\_ASSET' is not existent evaluates to 'TRUE' (triggering of event "delete.department.YR\_ASSET" by pressing of SUT button 'Delete' at **line 21** has removed any asset department name 'YR\_ASSET').

```
*[YR_CPP_MONITOR::CHECK_PRE_CONDITION_notIN:] precondition_IS_TRUE: True **
```

- **line 31, line 32:** checking post-condition  $\overline{Q1}$  in state  $E$  (there are still stocks in stock department 'YR\_ASSET') evaluates to 'TRUE', thus state  $E$  is reached as an accepting state, because department name 'YR\_ASSET' still exists in SUT SQL table "stocks", as illustrated in Figure 3 of the motivating example:

```
"execQuery: select * from stocks WHERE nom_departement_produit = 'YR_ASSET';"
*[YR_CPP_MONITOR::CHECK_post_condition_IN:] postcondition_IS_TRUE: True **
```

**Runtime Performance.** **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** and **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif** don't incur a runtime supplemental overhead to the SUT, apart from emitting SQL events from SUT to **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** as they occur, since no hand-shaking mechanism is used between **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** and the SUT. The emission of an SQL event from SUT to **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** doesn't cost more than 2 statements execution time (getting a pointer to the DBUS server, and calling a method 'YR\_slot\_refresh\_SELECT\_DB\_MYSQL' or other similar 3 methods (for INSERT, UPDATE, and, DELETE) on it).

## 7 Related Work

- **SUT source code instrumentation with specification.** "Clara" [7] enables to express software correctness properties using **AspectJ** and *dependency state machines*, both as instances of the typestate formalism, a formalism that is merely used for checking correctness of programs by a static compilation (analysis) technique called *typestate checking*. The Clara framework weaves (instruments), and annotates a program with runtime monitors using **AspectJ**, then tries to optimize the weaved program by static analysis. The "residual program", meaning the weaved statically optimized program is then executed and runtime monitored by developers to detect runtime errors. Runtime monitoring tools [9,3,6,10] work as similar as the Clara framework does.
- **SUT binary code instrumentation with a runtime monitor.** With **tracerory** [13,12]", **Jon Eyolfson and Patrick Lam** use runtime program binary code instrumentation technique in **INTEL-pin** [24] to instrument running programs for purposes of detecting unread memory. I.e., **tracerory** doesn't generate itself a runtime monitor, it uses **INTEL-pin** [24] to generate a runtime monitor for its verification purposes. "Purify" [17] doesn't allow for SUT user correctness property specification. It has built-in memory access safety properties to check *offline* on program execution, after instrumentation of the SUT, its third-party, and vendor object-code libraries.
- **Specification as set interface operations.** "Hob" [22,23] is a program verification framework that enables to: characterize effects of program statement on data structures by means of all ( $\forall$ ,  $\exists$ , etc.) algebra abstract set interface operations; and to check that these characteristics hold or not, using static analyses.
- **Concurrent Event Stream Analysis.**

"DejaVu" [19] enables to check safety temporal property expressed in **first-order past linear-time temporal logic (FO-PLTL)** for events that carry data. **DejaVu** inputs a trace log (*offline*) and a FO-PLTL formula, and outputs a boolean value for each position in the inputted trace. "LOGSCOPE" [18] checks, *offline*, software systems correctness properties expressed using a rule-based specification language over state machines. It is not very precise what type of state machine is created and processed. "LOGSCOPE" translates specifications into C++ monitors (that could carry data). "EventRaceCommander" [2] repairs in web applications (*online*), event race errors, a kind of safety error.

## 8 Conclusion And Future Work

This paper has presented a lightweight C++ Qt-DBus [21] tool to check a program against a runtime monitor using set interface operations ( $\in$ ,  $\notin$ ) on program statement: **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**. **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** doesn't generate false warnings; **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** specifications are *not desirable (forbidden) specifications (fail traces)*. Since the concurrent communication between **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF** and a program occurs over the RPC (Remote Procedure Call) instance **DBus**, a runtime monitor could be checked against programs written in any programming language or framework, as long as they emit the necessary SQL events to **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**.

Fig.10: A Mealy Machine State Diagram Specified Using **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif** Specification Language.

```

1. yr_sd_mealy_automaton_spec yr_missing_department
2. {
3.   START_STATE(d):NOT_IN_PRE(YR_ASSET, departements_produits.nom_departement_produit)
4.   -> / 'select.departements_produits'->
5.   FINAL_STATE(e):IN_POST(YR_ASSET, stocks.nom_departement_produit).
6. }
```

Future work would be an algorithm within **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif**, to extend 2-states state diagram mealy machine so to retrieve more states. The author of this paper has created a DSL (domain-specific language) and a compiler (**yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif\_lang\_comp**<sup>1</sup>) that enables automatic generation of **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif** C++ state diagram specification code for **YR\_DB\_RUNTIME\_VERIF**; an example specification is to find in Figure 10.

Fig. 11: 'yr-qvge' model for the example specification in Figure 10.



Also, the author of this paper has developed a graphical drawing tool (**yr-qvge**) for in Section 3 defined state diagrams. A model of **yr-qvge** is shown in Figure 11. It is an extension of the FOSS (Free and Open Source Software) Qt Graphviz [15] drawing tool QVGE [28]. **yr-qvge** generates, from a model, an input file for the compiler **yr\_sd\_runtime\_verif\_lang\_comp**.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://github.com/yerothd/yr\\_sd\\_runtime\\_verif\\_lang](https://github.com/yerothd/yr_sd_runtime_verif_lang)

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